PALOUSE BASIN AQUIFER committee

Approved minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2026, 2:00 PM
UI, FACILITIES SERVICES CENTER, JACK'S CREEK Room 151
https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/89485239499 Passcode PBAC

1) Introductions

X: In-person attendance **V:** Video attendance

v	Pullman: Cara Haley City Engineer		Moscow: Tyler Palmer (Chair) Deputy Director, Public Works & Services
	Pullman: Frank Mulcahy Public Works Director		Moscow: Kyle Steele Environmental Services Manager
v	Pullman: Nathan Weller City Council Member	**x**	Moscow: Bryce Blankenship City Council Member
x	Whitman County: Mark Storey Public Works Director		Latah County: Paul Kimmell County Representative
x	Whitman County: Chad Whetzel County Commissioner	**v**	Latah County: Tom Lamar County Commissioner
	WSU: Jeff Lannigan (Vice-Chair) Facilities Services	**v**	UI: Lana Cohen Research Scientist
	WSU: Jason Sampson Asst Director, Environmental Services		UI: Lee Espey Associate Vice President, Operations
v	WA, Dept of Ecology: Patrick Cabbage Unit Supervisor/Hydrogeologist	**v**	ID, Water Resources: Michelle Richman Regional Manager/Staff Engineer
v	WA, Dept of Ecology: Chris Beard Hydrogeologist		ID, Water Resources: Daniel Sturgis Hydrogeologist

Others in attendance: Jaime Short (WA Dept of Ecology), Isaac Hall, Sarah Olson, Jeff Hanson, John Konen, Steve Robischon, Holten White, Ken Clark, Mike Faupel, Miki Waters, Robin Nimmer, John Slagboom

2) Approval of Minutes
   a. July 16, 2026 meeting minutes were approved at 2:04
3) Announcements - none
4) Public Comment on Items not on Agenda - none
5) Unfinished Business none
6) New Business none
7) Presentations & Discussion

a. State of WA's regulatory environment - Jamie Short, Section Manager, Eastern Regional Office, Water Resources Program, WA Dept. of Ecology made a presentation.
b. HDR updates – Jeff Hansen and Holten White provided an update of their investigation of a diversion from the Clearwater River as a supplemental water supply. The current work is focused on water supply studies, point of diversion and a route for diverted water. This is a contracted project with the City of Moscow on PBAC's behalf.
c. Water Conservation Outreach update – Sarah Olson, PBAC's new Water Conservation Project Coordinator, introduced herself.

8) Subcommittee Reports
    i. Communications – Met August 18, planning a SEG meeting October 1, 4-6 p.m. at the Marriott Courtyard in Pullman. We'll cover latest updates on the study regarding a potential supplemental water supply diversion from the Clearwater river, and gather feedback from community leaders.
b. Technical – met earlier in the day, covered:
    i. potential supply target amount, and potential points of diversion of a Clearwater River diversion
    ii. Potential for increasing municipal pumping from the upper aquifer
c. Finance – annual dues have been received from Whitman County, City of Pullman, University of Idaho and WSU

9) Other Reports and Announcements
a. ID legislative water college in Moscow August 25 – PBAC will provide a short presentation and the City of Moscow's Water Reclamation Facility will be featured
b. PBAC has offered to meet with the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee to provide updates and answer questions regarding our study of the Clearwater River as a supplemental municipal water supply. The last meeting between PBAC and NPT was September 2025 and we'd promised to offer this at least annually.
c. Michelle Richman from Idaho Department of Water Resources will provide a presentation at the September PBAC meeting regarding the State of Idaho's regulatory environment
d. The Palouse Basin Water Summit will be held October 29, 3-7 pm at SEL Event Center in Pullman. Featured speaker will be Dr. William Alley. He is Director of Science and Technology for the National Ground Water Association. Previously, he served as Chief, Office of Groundwater for the U.S. Geological Survey for almost two decades. Dr. Alley has published over 100 scientific publications and received a number of awards, including the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award and Shoemaker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Communication. He was elected as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America in 2009.
e. Isaac Hall updated on his project sampling private wells to determine potential locations for passive aquifer recharge. He expects to have > 50 wells sampled, which would provide a good data set.

10) Next PBAC Meeting:

a. Thursday, September 17 at 2:00 pm

11) The meeting was adjourned at 2:57